

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

105th Congress
2nd Session

Vote No. 97

April 23, 1998, 10:26 am
Page S-3473 Temp. Record

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS/Strike ESAs, Add School Awards

SUBJECT: Education Savings Act for Public and Private Schools . . . H.R. 2646. Landrieu amendment No. 2301.

ACTION: AMENDMENT REJECTED, 34-66

SYNOPSIS: As amended, H.R. 2646, the Parent and Student Savings Account PLUS Act, will enact the compromise provisions of S. 1133, as reported, on education savings accounts and other education initiatives. It will expand the recently enacted education savings account tax credit, will provide an exclusion from gross income for distributions from qualified State tuition programs, will extend and expand the current-law section 127 tax exclusion (for employer-provided education assistance), and will assist local governments in issuing bonds for school construction by increasing the small-issuer bond exemption. The bill will also enact a proposal to give school construction aid to high growth districts. In total, approximately \$6 billion in tax relief for education over the next 10 years will be provided. That cost will be more than fully offset by modifying the employer deduction for vacation pay and by changing the treatment of the foreign tax credit carryback and carryforward periods (for increased revenues of \$6.9 billion over 10 years). The education tax credit will be expanded by increasing the annual contribution limit for education IRAs from \$500 to \$2,000 for taxable years 1999 through 2002 and by changing the definition of qualified education expenses to include kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12) expenses (the credit currently applies only to higher education expenses).

The Landrieu amendment would strike the bill provisions on education savings accounts and would instead authorize a new program under which the Secretary of Education could pick up to 250 schools per year to give \$100,000 because in his opinion they had "established standards of excellence and demonstrated a high level of quality." Each school that was picked would be called a "Blue Ribbon School" for 3 years. Both public and private schools could be picked.

NOTE: The Landrieu amendment had been modified by a Kempthorne amendment (see vote No. 97), but after the vote on that amendment it was modified by unanimous consent to be a first-degree amendment. The Kempthorne modified perfecting amendment, as agreed to, would add a section that would permit State educational agencies to use Elementary and Secondary Education Act funds to award public secondary schools that they determined by objective assessments to be outstanding schools.

For debate, see vote No. 96.

YEAS (34)		NAYS (66)			NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (34 or 76%)	Republicans (55 or 100%)	Democrats (11 or 24%)		Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Akaka	Kerrey	Abraham	Hutchinson	Baucus		
Bingaman	Kerry	Allard	Hutchison	Biden		
Boxer	Kohl	Ashcroft	Inhofe	Breaux		
Bumpers	Landrieu	Bennett	Jeffords	Bryan		
Conrad	Lautenberg	Bond	Kempthorne	Byrd		
Daschle	Leahy	Brownback	Kyl	Cleland		
Dodd	Levin	Burns	Lott	Feinstein		
Dorgan	Mikulski	Campbell	Lugar	Graham		
Durbin	Moseley-Braun	Chafee	Mack	Lieberman		
Feingold	Moynihan	Coats	McCain	Reid		
Ford	Murray	Cochran	McConnell	Torricelli		
Glenn	Reed	Collins	Murkowski			
Harkin	Robb	Coverdell	Nickles			
Hollings	Rockefeller	Craig	Roberts			
Inouye	Sarbanes	D'Amato	Roth			
Johnson	Wellstone	DeWine	Santorum			
Kennedy	Wyden	Domenici	Sessions			
		Enzi	Shelby			
		Faircloth	Smith, Bob			
		Frist	Smith, Gordon			
		Gorton	Snowe			
		Gramm	Specter			
		Grams	Stevens			
		Grassley	Thomas			
		Gregg	Thompson			
		Hagel	Thurmond			
		Hatch	Warner			
		Helms				

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay